

Application No. 10/032,067
Reply to Office Action of April 14, 2005

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-33 have been allowed. Claims 7-17, 19, 20, 36 and 38-41 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled, and the subject matter of allowable Claim 7 has been incorporated into Claim 1.

Allowable Claims 8, 11, 19, 34, 38 and 39 have been rewritten in independent form. The rejection based upon JP 2000-343964 is therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Wright for the courtesy of an interview on August 2, 2005, at which time new Claims 42-56 were discussed. In particular, new Claim 42 distinguishes over JP '964 because it recites that the fixing mechanism is for "continuously" fixing any of the gears to the casing. As was discussed during the interview, this distinguishes over the Examiner's interpretation of "fixed" to include selective braking. It was therefore agreed during the interview that Claim 42 distinguishes over the prior art. Claims 43-46 depend from Claim 42 and also define over the prior art.

Claim 47 also recites a fixing mechanism for "continuously" fixing any of the gears to the casing. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 47-50 also define over the prior art.

Claims 51-56 recite specific features of the planetary gear mechanisms and are also believed to define over the prior art.

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Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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